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### **Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery on November 4**

“On November 4, as we turn our clocks back, this is a good time to change the batteries in our smoke and carbon monoxide alarms,” said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. “Winter is when more fires occur in our homes – where we feel safest – and when most fatal fires occur. Making sure the smoke alarms are working is a simple, effective way to help your family survive an unexpected fire,” said Coan.

“A working smoke alarm can double your family’s chance of surviving a fire and when combined with a practiced home escape plan, the chances are greater,” said Coan. “People rely on what they have practiced in an emergency which is why we have fire drills in schools,” he added.

Coan said, “When you change the batteries on your home fire safety devices this year, inspect the alarms and check the date of manufacture. All electronic devices have a limited life span, so it is important that you replace your older smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with new ones to protect your family.”

Smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years. If your smoke alarm is ten years old or older, it is time to replace them! Carbon monoxide alarms need to be replaced every five or seven years, depending on the manufacturer. Check for a date of manufacture on the back of the device, or consult the manufacturer’s instructions for the recommended replacement date. If you can’t tell how old they are, it’s time to replace them.

For more information on smoke alarms go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Fire Safety Topics* then *Smoke Alarms*.

